

ROLEX

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MARGINAL COLUMN

THESE past few days and weeks have seen several weighty additions to our collection of Middle Eastern fantasies from among the world's leading newspapers. There were reports of Mr. David Ben-Gurion's "Daily Herald" and Joseph Alop of the "New York Herald Tribune" from Cairo and some "Observer" stories. Last week, the "New Times" main headline story was that "Nasser moves to revive old friendship with Britain; ending is months of Open Hostility; notations and reduction in the violence of Government-inspired anti-British campaign." The paper could hardly have chosen a more propitious moment for its report. Anti-British propaganda has never been more violent than in recent weeks. One has become used to such and similar reports. They have even ceased to be a source of amusement.

WHAT, then, is the reason for this constant misjudgment of the Middle Eastern situation by so many Western observers? (There are, of course, some exceptions, but it may be better not to name them. On the other hand, it must be suspected that the opinions expressed by visiting newspapermen frequently reflect the views and comment of local Western diplomats — which makes the situation even worse.) The answer becomes even more puzzling if we take into account that these political correspondents are of different, and frequently opposed, political persuasions. Some are pro-Communist, while Joseph Alop is a staunch anti-Communist. The "Observer" is liberal and progressive, whereas the "Sunday Times" is one of the pillars of conservatism. Nor would it be fair to doubt the political intelligence of these envoys whose acumen and competence in American or British affairs nobody in his right mind would dare to doubt. And yet, when it comes to the Middle East, they slip up with such monotonous consistency that one feels strongly tempted to look for some hidden motive.

NEVERTHELESS, the most obvious explanation is frequently (though not always) the linguistic barrier makes it quite impossible for visiting journalists to form a realistic picture of the scene. Having to rely on translators and interpreters, they are completely at sea and have to believe what they are told. It can be taken for granted that Messrs. Davidson and Alop (to choose only two recent examples) would have written differently if it were not for the fact that they had been able to read the Egyptian Press. Nor is it likely that on the basis even of the most superficial study of the Egyptian Press they would have argued that there has been a noticeable reduction in the violence of government-inspired anti-Western propaganda. The constant misjudgment in the situation in so many Western Press and diplomatic reports (inasmuch as these have become known) can only be explained on the basis of the whole climate of unreality in which these reports have been created. This is made by the fact that the international hotels, the official spokesmen of the regimes, the official guides and translators, the "stringers" and various liaison men who peddle their officially inspired news and comment.

ALL this may offer a fitting background for the novel of some future Evelyn Waugh or Peyrefitte. But at present and on the political level, it is a matter of much concern. It may be too much to expect from a foreign political observer to uncover any startling, secret news in a strange country. But he should be able to say to any newswriter to buy and read the day's local Press. The Russian in the Middle Eastern capitals do it. Most of their personnel is obliged to study the local language if they do not already possess a working knowledge of it. Among Westerners, the percentage of Arab linguists is infinitesimal. They do not speak Arabic, they have their contacts. They talk to Nasser directly. None in the world's Press listen to the political advice emanating from the Middle Eastern capitals and you'll see the results.

West Still Looks For U.N. Mid-East Action

By JESSE KEL LAUREN, Jerusalem Post Correspondent

NEW YORK, Tuesday. — Western delegates to the United Nations Council debate ended yesterday proving that the Security Council's policy of placing the Middle East problem in the laps of the U.N. will not work.

Nor do they agree that the Soviet attitude proves that the U.S.R. will continue to support anything the Arabs demand if the Arabs demand it strongly enough, as the Soviets have done since early 1955.

The Western concession to the Arabs yesterday, according to Western sources, was made so as not to endanger the chances of securing Soviet cooperation towards a peaceful solution in accordance with the Anglo-Soviet communiqué issued in London during the recent visit of Premier Bulganin and Mr. Khrushchev. There was no parliamentary necessity for the concession, since the unopposed resolution commanded a majority and there was never any question of a Soviet veto.

It is also pointed out that Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld had insisted on a unanimous vote, as he had done in April in order to continue his mission.

Little Remains

Precious little remains of his mission here, for he will not go beyond the ceasefire and discuss Jordan River water, the Suez blockade, Mount Scopus and other questions.

The debate which ended yesterday should prove to the West — but probably hasn't — that no progress towards peace is possible at this time and that stabilization of the status quo, correction and maintenance of the armistice, and compliance with the Armistice Agreements is the highest attainable objective.

The West has recently often taken the line that the possibility of opening peace talks between Israel and the Arabs, and probably will continue to do so despite Arab action. Mr. Hammarskjöld insisted he found a will to peace — something that the Arabs publicly denied at the Council table.

Sharett Reports On U.N. Proceedings

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday heard a report by the Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, on developments in foreign affairs in the light of the U.N. Security Council. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion participated.

The Economic Committee heard a delegation of the Grocers Association complain of unfair competition. The grocers demanded that the resolution of the licensing of groceries, Tnuva dairies, delicatessen shops, and kiosks.

The Committee is to discuss the situation at the factory near Tel Aviv.

At yesterday's meeting Mr. Y. Almoni handed to the committee chairman, Dr. R. Avnion, a letter from sugar producers at the factory.

Syria Thanks Persia And Yugoslavia

DAMASCUS, Tuesday (UP). — Premier Saïd Ghazal today summoned the Ministers of Iran and Yugoslavia and thanked their Governments for their attitude in the U.N. Security Council which led to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Political circles here termed it an "Arab victory."

Burns to Montreal For Holiday

UNITED NATIONS, Tuesday (UP). — Maj.-Gen. L. M. Burns, chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in the Middle East, was due to leave for a holiday at his home in Montreal tonight. He is expected back at U.N. headquarters on June 15.

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Two Israelis Hit By Jordan Gunfire

Two Israelis working near Yed Hamna, in the Little Triangle, were wounded yesterday by gunfire coming from Jordan, the Army spokesman announced last night.

On Monday morning, 12 soldiers of the Arab Legion entered Israeli territory in the vicinity of Kiriya Anasim, in the Jerusalem Corridor, the spokesman said. Shortly later, they were seen going back across the border.

The Jordan authorities yesterday returned a horse and a mule which had wandered across the border a fortnight ago. Israel police took delivery of the animals, which belong to the Givat Kosh and Nitzanei Or settlements, at a rendezvous at Irtah Bridge, near Ramle. The Jordan police collected a sum of Jordan money for the expenses of the beasts' keep during their captivity.

Jordan Ratifies Syrian Accord

The Jordan Cabinet yesterday ratified the Syrian-Jordanian political and military agreement, concluded by Syria's President, Shukry Kuwari and King Hussein in Amman last week.

The Old City daily "Falah" reported that King Faisal of Iraq and Crown Prince Abdul Ilah will visit Jordan later this month.

Meanwhile, Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and foreign minister, Fawzi Mulki, told a special correspondent of "Rose al Youssef" that Jordan remains opposed to regional pacts.

He said there was an urgent need for the abolition, or at least modification, of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty.

12 U.N. Observation Posts on Gaza Strip

The building of 12 observation posts along the Gaza Strip demarcation line on each side of the border, has been completed, a U.N. spokesman announced yesterday, according to ANA. They will be manned upon the arrival of additional U.N. observers.

The spokesman added that Colonel Charles Brewster, former Chairman of the Israel-Jordan M.A.C., has left Jerusalem upon the termination of his service, and that Colonel Honnel, present Deputy Chief of Staff, will leave Jerusalem in August.

IS DIE IN EGYPT FACTORY BLAST

ALEXANDRIA, Tuesday (Reuters). — Fifteen workers were believed killed and about 50 injured in an explosion in a salt and soda factory today.

Part of the factory building had collapsed and buried workers underneath. Fire engines took part in rescue operations. The explosion was believed to have occurred in an oil tank.

Seaton Confirmed As U.S. Interior Secretary

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (UP). — The Senate today unanimously approved the nomination of Mr. Fred Seaton to be Secretary of Interior.

Mr. Seaton, former Nebraska Senator, was recently named by President Eisenhower to succeed Mr. Douglas McKay, who resigned to run for the Senate.

Beirut Cabinet Crisis as Two Ministers Quit

The Lebanese Cabinet was last night on the verge of resignation. Premier Abdullah Yaf paid two calls on President Camille Chamoun, and after the second meeting told correspondents that he had placed his Cabinet's resignation "at the disposal" of the President.

The development brought to a head a Cabinet crisis which had been in the offing for several weeks and which reached its climax earlier yesterday with the resignation of two of the outstanding members of the Cabinet, Defence Minister Emile Jouhad Arsan, a Druze, and Foreign Minister Salim Lahoud.

Premier Yaf stated last night that President Chamoun had asked him to wait until today, when he could deal with the situation.

Yesterday afternoon, the Cabinet met at an extraordinary session to discuss the situation, and the scheduled session of Parliament was postponed.

Arsan's decision climaxed several weeks of accusations against a so-called "Abdullah Yaf Cabinet" for mismanagement of the government-controlled Beirut Electricity Co. and in the treatment of victims of the recent earthquake in Tripoli earlier this year.

In a statement to the Arab News Agency, Arsan said he could no longer bear the responsibility of his post as long as differences of opinion between the two top leaders, Minister Emile Bustani and other Cabinet colleagues were.

Syria Searching For New Premier

President Shukry Kuwari of Syria yesterday continued his consultations with various party leaders and statesmen in the search for a new premier, according to a statement issued by the Syrian Press.

Among those he saw yesterday were the leader of the A-Sha'ab Party, Rushdi Kihya, and Dr. Nazim Kudsi, Speaker of Parliament, according to ANA.

Mr. Kuwari had been asked by the President to attempt to form a new Cabinet but had declined. According to the Cairo daily "Al-Ahram," Kudsi and Sabri Sami, President of the National Party, are the two top leading candidates for the premiership.

Poland Frees 28,000 Under Amnesty Law

LONDON, Tuesday (Reuters). — Poland has released 28,000 prisoners, including 3,500 women, from prisons over the past few weeks under an amnesty law. The Polish news agency "AP" said last night. Another 8,000 prisoners have had their sentences reduced.

The agency said 1,500 of those released were serving sentences for political crimes. Another 1,500 political prisoners are among those with reduced sentences. The implementation of the April 27 amnesty law has now been completed, with the exception of 10,700 cases still under consideration, PAP said.

6 Soldiers Wounded in Cyprus

NICOSIA, Tuesday (Reuters). — Six British servicemen were injured, two seriously, when a mortar shell exploded at a military vehicle at a village north-west of Famagusta.

Armoured vehicles were rounding a bend on a mountain road when bombs came from nearby bushes. One only exploded, injuring the men who were rushed to hospital in Nicosia.

Strong British forces patrolled silent streets in Famagusta early today past the wreckage of Greek shops and vehicles which were attacked by rampaging Cypriot Turks last night.

Edible Oil Price To Go Up in July

The price of edible oil is going up as from July, probably to 12¢ per kilo, compared to the present price of 10¢ per kilo.

There will be no change in the price of unrefined oil. The price increase follows the decision of the Government to remove subsidies on imported raw materials for the production of edible oil, and to cut subsidies on local raw materials.

The Government expects to save ILS-4m. annually by this measure. The cost-of-living index is expected to rise by 1.2 points as a result.

The subsidies were cut because in the coming year local raw materials are expected to comprise up to 40 per cent of the total raw materials needed. Since the price of local raw materials is much higher than the price of imported materials, it cannot be expected that these prices will not affect the cost-of-living index.

The Government therefore sees no reason why the subsidy should be continued.

France Banning Sale Of Small Arms to Mid-East

France, Germany Agree on Saar

LUXEMBOURG, Tuesday (UP). — Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Premier Guy Mollet reached final agreement today on a plan to return the disputed Saar basin to Germany by January, 1957.

An official communiqué, delayed by last-minute disagreements over details, said the two leaders were in accord on directives for a treaty to end the dispute. The statement said also that Dr. Adenauer and Mr. Mollet reached "an identity of views" on the international situation and their support of the Atlantic alliance.

The two met for nine hours in the first top-level contact between France and Germany since Mr. Mollet became Premier.

The joint communiqué which followed said the two leaders — Premier Guy Mollet and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer — had "most friendly" talks.

In Bonn, the West German news agency, P.P.P., said France and West Germany agreed in their Luxembourg talks that the Saar should return to Germany by January 1, 1957, and economically by January 1, 1960.

The communiqué said the ministers tried to reconcile their essential national interests in the knowledge that full agreement was important for good Franco-German relations and Western solidarity.

Mollet Assured Of Confidence Vote

PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters). — Victory is regarded as certain for the Government tonight when it faces a vote of confidence on the Algerian, foreign and domestic policies.

The Communist Party's decision to abstain instead of voting against the Government, which came after a five-hour meeting of the party's leadership today, strengthened the chances of M. Guy Mollet's Cabinet.

The assembly heard final speeches before the vote of confidence.

Socialists, Radicals and (Catholic) Popular Republicans announced through their spokesmen today that they would support the Socialist Premier. Many Conservatives are also expected to vote for the Government, although most disapprove of its domestic policies, in order to indicate that France is determined to quell the Algerian rebellion.

Israel Officers To Aid Bond Drive

Four high officers of the Israel Defence Forces left by air today for the U.S., where they will undertake speaking tours on behalf of the Israel Bond Drive.

The group comprises Aluf-Mishne Ezer Weizman and Sgan-Aluf Gideon Shohat of the Air Force; Sgan-Aluf Josef Harel of the Navy; and Sgan-Aluf Nachman Karni of the GHI.

Aluf-Mishne Haim Herzog, Jerusalem District Commander, is now in the U.S., participating in the U.S.A. campaign.

Syrians Unearth Ancient Semira

DAMASCUS, Tuesday (UP). — Syrian archaeologists, guided by ancient Egyptian clay tablets, have discovered a buried Mediterranean seaport at least 3,000 years old. It was known today.

It was identified by the Director of the Government Department of Archaeology as the ancient port of Semira, just south of the modern city of Tartus in North Syria.

First reports indicated that the excavations contained a wealth of pottery, bronzes and other finds dating from the Phoenician, Assyrian, and Greek eras in the second millennium before Christ. Archaeological evidence indicated that the town had laid buried in coastal sand dunes for about 25 centuries.

SAUDI-YEMEN WEEKLY AIRLINE

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday (UP). — King Saud has ordered the establishment of a weekly airline service between Jeddah and Hodeida, in the Yemen. It was announced today. The move is designed to strengthen relations between the two countries following the signing of the "four-partite mutual security" treaty with Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen.

Hodja Still Premier In Albanian Shuffle

LONDON, Tuesday. — Albania reshuffled its Government today, but left its Communist Party leader, Mr. Enver Hodja, as Prime Minister.

A Tirana Radio broadcast said that Mr. Huan Kapo, first Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Vice-Premier) had been relieved of his post and had been given other important party functions.

Israel is Included in Embargo

PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters). — Foreign Minister Christian Pineau announced in the National Assembly today that the Government intended to prohibit the shipment of small arms to the Middle East.

M. Pineau said he intends to ask the Council of Ministers tomorrow to agree to the prohibition.

Premier Guy Mollet added that the term "small arms" would cover mortars. He said "no arms capable of being used against France will be shipped to that part of the world."

The embargo is understood to apply not only to the Arab states but also to Israel.

When M. Pineau said he would ask the Government to prohibit the export of small arms to the Middle East, a Deputy asked whether he meant the whole of the Middle East. The Foreign Minister replied, "Yes."

The former Resident General of Algeria, M. Jacques Soustelle, challenged the Government in the Assembly today about the shipment from France of arms to other countries. He said a new report of May 31 reported 13 cases containing 50 machine-guns and spare parts were sent by the French airline to Syria.

Two Airlines Refuse

M. Soustelle claimed this shipment had been refused by a Swiss and an American airline and he wanted to know whether or not there had been a shipment.

M. Pineau replied that in June, 1955, the then Government (headed by M. Edgar Faure) accepted orders from the Arab countries for 12,000 rifles, and 150 remade Lewis machine-guns.

As soon as the present Government became aware of these orders, it prohibited the shipment of small arms to Egypt. But on March 14, 1956, the French arms manufacturer concerned proceeded to deliver arms to Syria on the basis of the authority received last year to accept the order, he added.

M. Pineau said the Government did not feel it could repudiate all previous undertakings.

An order from the Government agreed to the delivery of 50 Lewis guns to Syria on the undertaking by the Syrian Government that these would not be re-exported.

Avoid Open Rift

Observers said the Communist decision to abstain in the vote meant that the party was making every effort to avoid an open break with its policy of supporting the present Socialist-Radical Government.

M. Mollet, in a speech which brought the four-day debate to an end, said he hoped the majority for the Government would be as large as possible "so that the world may know that our policy is the policy of the whole nation."

Earlier, the Premier formally denied the Government had sent any semi-official or other missions to Cairo or elsewhere to contact Algerian insurgents.

The problem was entirely French, he said, but added he was sure the plan of the Indian Prime Minister Nehru "was made with the most careful desire to assist us."

However, he said, "We cannot take it into consideration because it would introduce a third party into the situation."

'Healthy' Limitations

M. Mollet said his government agreed to the application of the principle of self-determination in Algeria subject of two "healthy" limitations.

These were: respect for the rights of others, and that self-determination must be valid when it does not endanger world peace.

M. Mollet added that the idea of dividing Algeria into two states, one for Europeans and one for Muslims, was "a mad idea," and the Government repudiated it completely.

The Indian Roving Ambassador, Mr. Krishna Menon, urged France today to achieve a peaceful, liberal solution of the Algerian problem and pressed for acceptance of the five-point peace plan proposed by Mr. Nehru.

In a 90-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Christian Pineau, Mr. Menon expanded on the suggestions made by Mr. Nehru in a recent speech, which put forward a plan that called among other things for immediate cessation of hostilities and recognition by France of the Algerian nation.

But today's meeting brought "no practical conclusion," the two diplomats later told reporters.

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(See April 1956 copy of Reader's Digest)

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In Friday's JERUSALEM POST

by David Ben-Gurion

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Cables in Brief

WASHINGTON. — The Cuban Foreign Ministry has stated

FINGERPRINTS. — The Immigration Sub-Committee of the House of Representatives has voted to continue the fingerprinting of visitors to the U.S. — at least for nationals of the Soviet Union and other European Communist countries.

ANTI-SMOKING. — A new

u-biotic called Albanyoin
claimed to be able to kill dis-

new organisms in blood poisoning, bone and heart diseases, pleurisy, pneumonia, and other serious ailments. The vaccine is available to all European countries within six weeks. It was announced in New York yesterday.

SECT. — France's first jet aircraft, the turbo-jet Conquest, made its first test flight from Paris to Algiers and back on a test flight, using one engine only on the return leg. It took 2 hours 7 minutes to reach Algiers on two engines, and 3 hours 13 minutes to return on one engine.

Arabs Attack Israel At Student Meeting

MANHUNG Indonesia Two

day (UP). — Arab delegate to the Asian-African Student

Conference today raised the "Israel question" and asked justice for the Arab refugees who, they said, were "victims of Zionist aggression."

The students held a session today in which the Philippine delegate walked out of the conference after protesting against the acceptance of the credentials of at least seven countries.

He said the conference broke the regulations of the international preparatory committee because Egypt did not have a student representative and Persia, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Togoland, the Cameroons and Senegal were represented by students from overseas colleges.

During yesterday's session many of the delegations described their colonial past

the effect of colonialism on their educational systems

BRAZILIAN SOCCER TEAM ARRIVES
LYDDA AIRPORT. Tuesday — The Brazilian soccer team, San Cristovao, arrived by plane from Turkey today.

The visitor will play five games in this country. The first tomorrow at the Petrotikva Hapoel ground against the local team. Kick-off at 3 p.m. On Saturday, the team will play Hapoel at Jaffa, and on June 13 meets Israel Selected. The fourth game has not yet been arranged.

AT All these animals were

with indifference, as were industry's appeal to the Municipalities who did not share the security authorities' alarm. The security authorities' bricks for the erection of buildings, schools etc. On situations directly concerned with security problems lent an air of urgency and importance through their initiative that permitted to determine the standard qualities of walls of fortification and building materials was carried out.

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However, great efforts by

be made, lately by the manufacturers of silicate bricks to increase their output in order to meet the emergency situation and even the factories in Haifa have been reopened. Today, the industry produces some 100-120 thousands bricks daily.

The industry hopes that in view of this great effort, which owners, managers and employees are participating in, the Government and Municipalities, including the Housing Division of the Ministry of Labour will henceforth show greater understanding, and will co-operate in the work of vital importance attached to silicate bricks in the construction of security buildings.

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No. 37/38 — May 1948

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